

2010 AWARDS GIVEN FOR OUTSTANDING CONTRIBUTIONS TO CT GREENWAYS:

Unsung Hero, Rex Joffray– Rex Joffray of Somers has been working tirelessly for the past 5 years promoting and developing a greenway corridor along both banks of the Scantic River from Stafford to East Windsor, Connecticut. As president of the Scantic River Watershed Association, he knows how to motivate and interest people in this passionate endeavor. When Rex isn't clearing trail, installing riverside benches, leading a work party, or developing Google maps of the greenway, he can be seen pedaling his bike towing a trailer carrying his kayak for a serene evening paddle. He doesn't let wintertime slow him down either, as he can often be found on cross-country skies pulling a sled laden with trail maintenance equipment to work on the latest blow down either along or in the river. Rex is a true friend and promoter of open space, the Scantic River, and the greenway, and truly an Unsung Hero for all his ambitious efforts.

Unsung Hero, Mark Cummings – Mark is the Coordinator for the Kings Mark Resource Conservation & Development Area (RC&D). RC&D projects encourage and improve the capability of designated RC&D areas to plan, develop, and carry resource conservation and development and help people care for and protect their natural resources, and improve local economies and living standards. This award is given for Mark's dedication and successful organization of the RC&D event "Tour de Farms" which annually brings hundreds of Connecticut's residents closer to agriculture in a fun way.

Volunteers, CT Horse Council Volunteer Horse Patrol (VHP)–The VHP is an organization founded in 2003 that partners with DEP to help monitor and patrol the State's forests, parks, and wildlife management areas, offering directions, information, and even medical help if needed to the many recreational users of our public and private lands. They are also involved with trail marking and maintenance and have increased their patrols from just 600 man hours in 2003 to almost 4700 man hours including 700 maintenance hours this past year. They and their equine partners must pass a Horse/Rider assessment to qualify for the Patrol and also keep their CPR certification up to date. Approximately 120 riders and horses from all around the state have qualified and now patrol some 60 parks, forests, wildlife management areas, town parks, and several Land Trust properties. Their logs are turned into DEP each year and the Patrol calculates that with their 16,000 patrol hours and 3,000 trail maintenance hours over the past 6 years they have saved the taxpayers of Connecticut approximately \$31,655!

Non-Profit Organization, The Last Green Valley–The Last Green Valley (LGV) promotes recreation and good stewardship of the land and water resources of our National Heritage Corridor. For more than 20 years, The LGV has been bringing people together to celebrate the unique natural and cultural resources of the Quinebaug and Shetucket Rivers Valley National Heritage Corridor. Last spring, the LGV designed a program to get people out and about on the water – a collaborative program called the 2009 Source to Sea Expedition. During the nine-week Expedition, ninety-five organizations sponsored ninety water-related educational events and paddles that stretched from the upper watershed to Long Island Sound. In addition, three new segments of Quinebaug River Water Trail were dedicated; paddler's guides were produced by a new Water Trails Steering Committee for what is now 30 miles of outstanding paddling on the

Quinebaug; a new car-top boat launch was dedicated on the French River, and two car-top boat launches and one new segment of riverfront trail were added on the Quinebaug River.

Town, Town of Mansfield– The Town of Mansfield is being recognized for its outstanding commitment to parks, open space preservation and trails. Mansfield has over 2,785 acres of preserved land. Their commitment to the quality of life, not only in Mansfield, but throughout eastern Connecticut is further exemplified in its volunteer boards comprised of the Open Space Committee, Parks Advisory Committee and Recreation Advisory Committee. In addition, a Friends of Mansfield Parks and Natural Area Volunteers round out the town's true commitment to natural resource management and preservation. Management plans have been developed and implemented for all their properties. There is an extensive town-wide trail system that is integrated with the surrounding communities and UConn. The Town's new website has extensive maps, guides, aerial photos, and other resources which provide detailed information to its citizens.

Advocacy, New Haven Safe Streets Coalition– The New Haven Safe Streets Coalition unites residents, nonprofit groups, and elected officials in support of communities that are livable and streets that are walkable and bikeable for people of all ages and abilities. The Coalition has brought much-needed attention to pedestrian and cyclist safety. With the passage of Public Act 09-154, the state's 'Complete Streets' law, and New Haven's adoption of a "Complete Streets Design Manual," the Coalition's efforts truly are succeeding in making Connecticut's streets and the communities around them better places to live, work, and play.

Legislators, Jack Thompson–As mayor of Manchester back in the early 1970s, John W. "Jack" Thompson reviewed and supported a town wide greenways plan with inter-town awareness. Jack Thompson also was effective in dealing with Connecticut Department of Transportation to assure accommodation of the Charter Oak Greenway, which is now part of the Canada to Key West, Florida, East Coast Greenway. After serving in town government, Jack continued at the state and local level to support the funding of the planning and development of the Charter Oak Greenway and other Greenway projects. The real key for the Greenways project has been Jack's advocacy of legislation that provided funding for Connecticut's Greenway delivery system. The system provides for a process that has to be in place to allow Connecticut to receive federal funds for Greenway projects. Without the Greenway delivery system, Connecticut would be shut out of federal funding for Greenway projects. Jack is one of the few who understand the processes for obtaining funding for vital environmental projects. For more than 30 years, he has been an advocate and true supporter of greenways.

Planning, John Pagini– John D. Pagini, American Association of Certified Planners (AICP) has served as a municipal and regional planner primarily in Southern New England for the past 35 years. As Environmental Planner for the Town of Glastonbury in the 1970's and early '80s' he oversaw the Town's stream belt preservation policy and was responsible for scores of open space and conservation easement dedications. He was instrumental in the Town's acquisition of Earle Park on the bluffs of the Connecticut River, which led to the establishment of the adjoining Audubon Nature Center. As Director of the Nantucket Planning and Zoning Commission, he oversaw the design and ultimate expansion of the Island's bike and all purpose path system, from 14 miles to over 28 linear miles adjoining the Island's sensitive moorlands. He currently is a consultant to the Town of Bolton and Conservation Coordinator for Joshua's Trust, a 14-Town land trust which last year eclipsed the 4,000 acre preservation mark. He served on the Council

on Environmental Quality and on the Board of 1,000 Friends, is the Professional Development Officer to Connecticut planners, and is an advocate for smart growth and sustainable and livable communities.

Planning, Jamie Rabbit – Jamie is a certified planner and being recognized for his efforts planning and facilitating greenways and trails in Pomfret. He has consulted the P&Z Commission in Pomfret for many years during which he worked on the Airline State Park Trail's "RR Station Simulation" in Town as well as providing much needed access to the Airline Trail from Rte. 44. In addition Jamie worked with the Town to secure sale of development rights to protect approximately 740 acres as open space. Jamie is also a Senior Planner for the Southeastern Connecticut Region.

Government, Town of Simsbury –Simsbury has been selected as the first and only town in Connecticut to make the National Trust for Historic Preservation's list of Dozen Distinctive Destinations and is the first designated Bike Friendly Community by the League of American Bicyclists. Money Magazine has declared Simsbury as one of the "Top 100 Best Places to Live" and is a federally designated Preserve America community. These distinctions are reliant upon and testimony to their commitment to greenways and trail systems. This award is given to applaud the importance that Simsbury places on greenways and trails and their associated dedication to continued planning and maintenance of their greenways and trails.

Education, UConn's Dr. Norman Garrick- Dr. Garrick is an Associate Professor in the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering at the University of Connecticut. Dr. Garrick is being recognized for teaching young engineers to understand and better design urban transportation systems with an eye toward better incorporating bicyclists and pedestrians. In addition, Dr. Garrick is an expert on the social and environmental impact of transportation. Dr. Garrick recently spoke at the *Fairfield County/East Coast Greenway Bicycle & Pedestrian Summit* where he spoke on innovative bicycle & pedestrian planning and may work with Connecticut Department of Transportation to enhance our current guidelines.

Special Recognition, Senator Christopher J. Dodd-Senator Dodd is being recognized for his long-time commitment to promoting, protecting, and enhancing greenways throughout Connecticut. He was an early and ardent supporter of the Eight Mile River Wild and Scenic Designation, which helps to preserve one of the State's first Official Greenways. He also championed the establishment and continued funding of the Quinebaug and Shetucket Rivers National Heritage Corridor, now known as the Last Green Valley. Along with Senator Lieberman, he rode a tandem bicycle along the East Coast Greenway section in Connecticut to help raise both awareness and dollars for the project. His efforts have secured millions in funds for many of the most popular trails and greenways around the state. Most recently, Senator Dodd helped to spearhead the successful designation of the New England National Scenic Trail through the center of the state, which will bring new tourism and federal resources to one of our most beautiful routes.

Special Recognition, Leslie Lewis - Leslie Lewis is a remarkable woman and an exemplary steward of and advocate for Connecticut's environment. We take this occasion to recognize her contributions to Connecticut's greenways.

Leslie worked for DEP for 29 years, retiring in 2007. She worked on the implementation of the Bottle Bill, preparation of municipal guides on recycling and household hazardous waste management, and preparation of DEP's Environment/2000 plan. For ten years from 1997 until her retirement, she served as the Trails and Greenways Coordinator, responsible for grants, state-wide trail planning and technical assistance. Leslie served on the Advisory Board for both Connecticut and New England Trails in developing the New England Greenway Vision Plan.

Her remarkable skills have been celebrated by those fortunate enough to work with her:

Her wealth of knowledge about agencies, groups, towns and advocates for parks, trails and forests;

- Her skill and finesse in communications;
- Her consensus-building skills; and
- Her partnership approach to getting things done.

More recently, Leslie has served as a consultant to the Connecticut Forests & Parks Association developing the WalkCT program, "an initiative to bring the outdoors to the feet of every household in the state...a program that will spark the beginning of a sea of change in the national health."

Today we honor Leslie, the visionary behind the success of the Connecticut Greenways Council. She has served the Council from its inception in 1995, first as its staff through DEP, then as a council member. Leslie has worked with communities and groups across the state to develop greenways projects and submit them for official designation. However, she has been heard to say many times:

The reality is that the state designation by itself isn't enough to protect a natural resource or corridor. It's voluntary. There are no "shalts," only "shoulds." I believe the real benefit is that designation can serve as a blueprint for plans of conservation and development without the negative impacts of government overregulation."

Leslie – thank you for everything you have done for the Greenways Council and for improving the life of communities and residents throughout the state.